

# **BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 6, 2009**

**Oliver Administration Building**

### **Present**

**Subcommittee: William O'Dell (Chair), Paul Brule (6:12) and Karen Lynch**

**School Committee, Administration and Staff: John Bento, Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, John Saviano, Paul Silva, Edward Mara, Melinda Thies, Jane Correia and George Simmons**

**Guests: Lourenco Garcia (to observe)**

**Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.**

### **Public Comment**

**None**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to approve the minutes to the March 16, 2009 meeting; Bill O'Dell seconded; the motion passed by a vote**

of 2 to 0.

## **Warrant Review**

**No questions or issues.**

## **Funding for Colt Andrews Playground**

**Bill O'Dell understood that Colt Andrews Playground parents could not make the meeting, but was disappointed a representative was not present. Marjorie McBride mentioned they cancelled their meeting with HDC. The Committee discussed the parents' request for permission to sell plaques on the back of the seats in the Colt Auditorium, to raise funds for the playground.**

**Diana Campbell referenced the Phoenix article about the playground that indicated \$100,000 is estimated for site preparation, then another \$100,000 is estimated for equipment; she thought perhaps the District should provide the site preparation. Bill O'Dell had similar thoughts. Marjorie McBride had met with the Playground Committee who had contacted Matt Hayes about publicity; they also talked about selling plaques on the stone steps outside; Marjorie told them the School Committee had at one time considered selling the seats in the auditorium. Marjorie is concerned about the time it will take to raise the money for site preparation; the group has raised only \$22,000 to date.**

**Bill O'Dell has concerns about their selling plaques on the auditorium**

seating: 1) he does not see the connection with the playground; 2) does not want to open Pandora's Box with our other auditoriums; and 3) the site has historic and architectural significance and we must be careful what we put in there. He questioned why they don't plan to sell bricks rather than make a cement walkway. Diana Campbell felt putting names on the plaques would add them to the town's history. Paul Silva would agree with the plaques if we were doing a fund raiser for the auditorium. Marj said decisions on the playground are made by that Committee as long as they do not impinge on the rehab of the school; she has had no input to the plans, and the only issue she had with the final plans was the lack of handicapped accessibility.

**Paul Brule arrived at 6:12 PM.**

Marjorie McBride mentioned that we have to move forward with the parking spaces; we took that as a credit from the contractor but we must take care of it; she does not believe it needs to go to HDC. John Saviano believes \$200,000 is exorbitant for a playground; this may be going overboard. Marjorie is not aware of how the figures were derived or how reliable they are and believes the site work would be closer to \$60,000. Paul Silva thought the plans were to have been presented to the Committee to discuss and voice opinions before pricing was obtained; he would like to see exactly what the plans are. Marjorie McBride said it is not our money they are spending, and both Paul Brule and Paul Silva said but it is our property and we have to ultimately answer to the public. Marj mentioned that we did not tell

the Guiteras Playground group what they could or could not do. Bill O'Dell recapped: 1) we wanted assurances the budget would be met; 2) the plans had to meet with the approval of the building principal; he suggested a letter be sent to the Playground Committee. Paul Brule would like a set of plans.

**ACTION:** Without objection, Bill O'Dell directed the Superintendent to send a letter to the Colt Andrews Playground Committee stating, with all due respect, the general consensus of the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee is they cannot sell seat plaques in the Colt Auditorium, to please send a set of plans for review, and to please send a representative to the next Budget/Facilities Subcommittee meeting.

#### **Bid Award – Sewer Injection Pump**

George Simmons reported two bids were received: \$44,965 from American Water and \$23,650 from Automatic Temperature Controls. After scrutinizing the bids, George recommends the higher bidder because of the high quality of the pump they would use, and the completeness and professional quality of their specs. Paul Brule agreed that the proposed pumps are the best available; Paul asked for some time to review the details of the specs and to assure all parts are stainless steel. George mentioned that Roland Robert had indicated we went out to bid for design and build and would have to work with the bidder's architect.

**MOTION:** Paul Brule motioned to recommend to the full Committee,

**awarding the bid for the sewer injection pump to American Water for the amount of \$44,965, contingent on final approval by Mr. Brule. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.**

**Six weeks lead time is needed for ordering equipment; the work should take about one day and will ideally be scheduled during the two weeks between the end of the school year and the beginning of summer programs. A pump truck will be needed during installation.**

**During discussion on the sewer pump bids, the replacement of the District's architect was brought up. Regarding the plans for the high school press box, Roland's secretary said he had many meetings with the Town of Bristol. As discussed, George had given the plans to George Gifford. It was agreed that another architect should be retained by the District.**

**MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to direct the Superintendent and Director of Administration to go out to bid for a District architect, using the same RFP as was used previously. Paul Brule seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.**

## **Facilities Updates**

### **Press Box / Athletic Field Master Plan**

**Karen Lynch asked if storage space needed by the Athletic Director could be incorporated into the press box plans. George Simmons**

said it absolutely can; also George Gifford will be contacted the manufacturer of the bleachers.

#### **Air Conditioning for Colt**

Paul Silva said the Building Committee has already approved this and the issue did not belong with the Budget/ Facilities Subcommittee. George Simmons requested an alternate for air conditioning the art room, although excessive heat is not so much of an issue there because the windows open. Bill O'Dell stated that the AC was not on the agenda and no discussion was entertained by the Chair.

#### **Kickemuit Middle School Parking Lot**

Bill O'Dell said the parking lot exits are very difficult to see at night; George said several signs have been erected only to be torn down; reflective paint might be helpful. George will assess the situation and report back to the Committee next month.

George Simmons left the meeting at 6:48 PM.

#### **Budget FY 2009 Supplemental**

Jane had no new information; numbers from the Department of Education are expected tomorrow. Ed said Ray Gallison assured him the bill does not have support. Diana Campbell asked if the pulling back of regionalization funding is true. Jane explained the increases in regionalization funding stopped in 1999 as was expected, however,

**the base funding will remain.**

### **Budget Cuts**

**Ed Mara said we still do not know just how much we will have to cut; he told his administrators that teachers will not be cherry picked, we are looking at programs and support programs. John Saviano asked about relief with bussing. Ed explained we are in tier 2 of the state-wide transportation system; the predicted savings are not evident to us nor to some of the other districts. John Saviano had researched other states' practices but they are not practical for us.**

**Diana Campbell asked about teacher lay-offs. Ed said that as much as he would love to do the recalls, until we received the bottom line figures, we cannot. John Saviano mentioned a number of laid off teachers are looking for jobs and he asked about reciprocity with Massachusetts. There is from RI to MA but not from MA to RI. Jane said it could be mid-June before we have the numbers.**

### **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 6:15 PM at Oliver**

### **Adjournment**

**At 7:05 PM, Karen Lynch motioned to adjourn; Paul Brule seconded; the motion passed unanimously.**

**/ca**